



BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
2309 TULARE STREET
BOARD ROOM, 2nd FLOOR
FRESNO, CA 93721
board.fresnounified.org

MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Fresno, California
October 04, 2023

Fresno Unified School District, Education Center, 2309 Tulare Street, Fresno, CA 93721.

At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Fresno Unified School District, held on October 04, 2023, there were present Board Members Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, and Clerk Wittrup. Superintendent Robert G. Nelson, Ed.D. was also present.

For the record, Board President Islas was absent.

Board Clerk Wittrup CONVENED the Regular Board Meeting at 4:31 p.m.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Closed Session Items

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on Closed Session items.

Board Clerk Wittrup ADJOURNED the Regular Board Meeting to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

Board Member Thomas arrived at 4:36 p.m.

Board Clerk Wittrup RECONVENED the meeting to Open Session at 6:08 p.m.

Reporting Out of Closed Session

- On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Jonasson Rosas the Board acted in Closed Session to approve dismissal charges for a certificated employee by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Clerk Wittrup. ABSENT Board President Islas.
- On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Clerk Wittrup the Board acted in Closed Session to accept the recommendation of a hearing officer to dismiss a classified employee, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Clerk Wittrup. ABSENT: Board President Islas.

- On a motion by Board Member Thomas seconded by Board Member Davis, the Board acted in Closed Session to dismiss a classified employee who failed to demand a hearing in a timely manner and as a result waived his right to a hearing, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1 as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Board Clerk Wittrup. ABSENT: Board President Islas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

David Chavez led the Flag Salute.

HEAR Reports from Student Board Representatives

An opportunity was provided to hear comments/reports from Student Board Representatives from Edison High School. Contact person: Natasha Baker, Ed.D., telephone 457-3731.

HEAR Report from Superintendent

- As we have entered October, we are recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month. One in three teens will be in an abusive or unhealthy relationship and having lost one of our dear students to domestic violence this spring, this month hits closer to home more than ever for Fresno Unified. I'm grateful to our partners at Marjaree Mason Center for all they do in our community and am especially grateful for their continued support in facilitating the kNOw More program in all of our high schools. At the last Board meeting our Board of Education approved this year's contract for the kNOw More program, a program focused on building a culture of trust and support on campus, empowering youth to build healthy relationships. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, please know there is help available to you through the Marjaree Mason Center. You can reach their 24-hour crisis hotline at 559-233-HELP.

We look forward to supporting Marjaree Mason Center's work at their 40th Annual Top 10 Professional Women Awards, honoring our own Trustee Thomas.

- As you may have seen, we are currently recruiting qualified, credentialed substitute teachers to support our students in the event the Fresno Teachers Association decides to strike. Ideally, we'll be able to work out an agreement and avoid a strike altogether, which is still our number one goal. However, we must be prepared to ensure our schools stay open, safe, and full of learning even in the event of a teachers' strike. We are offering \$500 per day for qualified, credentialed substitute teachers to help us continue our students' learning and growth during a strike. We already have more than 2,000 active, qualified substitute teachers in our system and are confident our substitute recruitment coupled with credentialed employees across Fresno Unified deploying to classrooms will ensure our students' continued growth and learning. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a certificated substitute teacher, please head to our website at www.fresnounified.org/substitute.

- Next week staff will have opportunities to review drafts of our literacy plans. Our Every Child Is a Reader Plan will have a district overview rooted in data, research, and our districtwide goal of closing achievement gaps at challenging levels through a variety of strategies, including making every child a reader by the end of first grade and using data early and often to course correct when we see challenges. When we share the entire plan, we will receive general feedback, send it off to be copyedited and translated in Hmong and Spanish, then present our plan to our school board and communities. I am looking forward to sharing the full plan with you all soon!
- I want everyone to be aware of something that makes a big difference in our community. It's called the local control and accountability plan, or LCAP. The LCAP is about our kids, our schools, and our future. It makes sure students get the help they need to promote achievement and equity, through investments in things like literacy and math support, mental health resources, safety improvements, and upgrades in technology. The best part of this process is that YOU help decide how the funds are used to improve our schools. We are going to host regional meetings, where you can share your voice. We kick off our events at Edison on October 10, with events in at every regional high school happening through November 7. Staff, families, and community partners can attend any regional event which includes dinner, interpretation, childcare, and free Zoo tickets for participants! For all dates and more information, please visit our website at www.fresnounified.org.
- I am proud to share the moves we have been making as a district as we work to ensure food and clothing pantries are available for our students. We currently have 22 clothing closets at schools across the district with another 41 schools interested in starting their own clothing closets. For any of our schools interested in starting a clothing site, the district is offering up to \$10,000 to the school site for startup costs. Many of our schools also partner with the Central California Food Bank for food distributions and potential food pantries, and our district is working with the Food Bank on a district level to see how we can partner even further. More to come on that!
- You have heard me say it before and this is your last reminder and chance for two important things! First, all staff and families, we need you to complete the fall Climate and Culture survey online by Friday, October 13. Second, our State of Education Gala is happening next Thursday evening, so get your tickets now! It's going to be a beautiful event with some great surprises.
- Let me wrap up my remarks tonight with a few shoutouts and recognitions:
 - I'd like to extend a special shout out to our Special Education Department and all our school sites for working collaboratively on making sure students have IEPs that are updated. As you know, when students with special needs have an individualized education program outlining supports that target their unique student needs, our students are more likely to experience success in our school system. For all our educators, especially those supporting students with special needs, keep up the great work!
 - Yesterday we got the great news that our Parent University is a Golden Bell Award winner through the California School Boards Association! We are thrilled that following their selection as a finalist and a successful validation

visit by CSBA, they have officially been selected as a winner. We are proud of our Parent University, thank you for your innovative work ensuring our family goal stays front and center.

- Shoutout to our McLane Army Junior ROTC Cadets who placed first in the boat races at the Bulldog Challenge! The Bulldog Challenge is where ROTC teams compete in a variety of events with this year being the first top finish for McLane cadets in three years of competing in the event. For the boat race, cadets engineer and assemble their boats on their own. Amazing work McLane, congratulations!
- I also want to congratulate automotive instructor, Dale Dutcher, and his students at Duncan who completely built an award winning 1935 Ford Pickup kit car from Factory Five Racing over this year! They started building in January of 2023, from forty-two boxes of parts, a frame, and a body. Students inventoried every part, then built and hand fit every part on the car. Bobby's Auto Body took care of the paint and body work, and the students finished the car, including building a 347 stroker motor at 550 horsepower. Mr. Dutcher entered the car in the Fresno County Fair and was awarded Best of Show! What an amazing experience – congratulations and thank you Mr. Dutcher for bringing this great opportunity to our students!

BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMUNICATIONS

Board Members had the opportunity for Board/Superintendent communications. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas: Referenced the car described in Superintendent's comments and asked if the car is street legal and for sale.

Member Levine: Thanked Superintendent Nelson for sharing information regarding student resource pantries. Asked the district to get the word out about the pantries to sites, students, and families. Shared that the pantries are not only for food but for clothing, hygiene items and other items students or families may need.

Member Davis: Thanked the Superintendent for attending the Sunnyside Region Literacy Plan. Expressed gratitude to the Sunnyside staff and their work, time, and effort to facilitate the event. Expressed thanks to the East Fresno Kiwanis for providing fifty-three students with \$200 each for a Kohl's shopping spree.

OPPORTUNITY for Public Comment on Consent Agenda items

For the record, the Board received zero requests to address the Board on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Cazares the Board approved the Consent Agenda except for agenda items A-6 and A-12, which were pulled for further discussion, by a roll call vote of 6-0-0-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Levine, Thomas, and Clerk Wittrup. ABSENT: Board President Islas.

ALL CONSENT Agenda items are routine by the Board of Education and enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a Board member requests, in which event, the item(s) will be considered following approval of the Consent Agenda. Pulled Consent Agenda items will be considered for approval after the Conference/Discussion Agenda.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

A-1, APPROVE Personnel List

APPROVED as recommended, the Personnel List, Appendix A, as submitted.

A-2, ADOPT Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Board

ADOPTED as recommended, the Findings of Fact and Recommendations of District Administrative Panels resulting from hearings on expulsion and readmittance cases conducted during the period since the September 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting.

A-3, ADOPT Resolution Recognizing the Month of October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month

ADOPTED as recommended, a resolution recognizing the month of October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

A-4, ADOPT Resolution 24-16, Approve the Use of Sole Source Vendor Authorization

ADOPTED as recommended, Resolution 24-16, to approve the use of sole source vendor authorization per Administrative Regulation 3323 for Sole Source Procurements.

A-5, APPROVE Revised Classified Management Competitive and Negotiable Daily Salary Schedule 260 Duty Days

APPROVED as recommended, the revised Classified Management Competitive and Negotiable Daily Salary Schedule 260 Duty Days.

A-6, APPROVE Agreement with Fresno State-Kremen School of Education

APPROVED as recommended, an agreement with the Fresno State-Kremen School of Education. The Kremen School of Education and Human Development is proposing a study for the 2023/24 academic school year for the Steve's Scholars Program.

For the record, Board members had comments/questions pertaining to agenda item A-6. A summary is as follows:

Member Jonasson Rosas: Expressed excitement for this item. Requested clarity as to what the scope of work is and what the research will entail. Requested staff to look at what barriers students face in meeting the scholarship criteria.

For the record, Jeremy Ward was available to provide clarity.

For the record, Natasha Baker, Ed.D., read a statement on behalf of Francine and Murray Farber—the statement is noted as Addendum A of the meeting minutes.

For the record, Dr. Yerrick from California State University, Fresno provided comments as follows:

“Our research is formulated together and designed to learn how students benefit from scholarships, the impact on students and their life after college or their graduation.

The University faculty member was selected based on their expertise and their openness, of course, to listen to what the Farber’s wanted done in the study. It is our belief that the results of the research will not only benefit Steve’s Scholars but also have a long-term effect on the Fresno Unified Foundation as it helps develop similar procedures to understanding and following up longitudinal data for scholarship awardees.

What I want to add to her comments is the welcome nature that our research team has for your kind of questions, and the reason I want to make it very explicit is that I have thirty-three years of studying marginalized groups, from rural North Carolina to Urban Buffalo, one exit north of Mexico in San Diego. So, I’ve studied marginalized groups in lots of different places, and I will tell you that the research will continually look at one of two things, either what is all the success that we’ve done, right, with only those who stand out as stars or strong successes. Or, it often, if there is not success, it often blames the victims for not having their success. We reject both those premises and what we want to do is understand what is the nature of the support they received that can be transferred to other students, and how do we emphasize some of the things if financial resources are the most important and traveling to culturally enriched experiences or government understandings of civic interactions whatever those are that help them be more successful is what we want to do, but the most important part of this research is that we allow the students who have been underrepresented to use their own voices to represent themselves. That they themselves, their voices have said here is what I believe matters, here is what was helpful to me, and that may not be the same for all students but too often in research we generalize and say, this group does well because of this, and we are letting their own voices speak for themselves in this research.”

For the record, Board Member Levine read a statement as follows:

“Agenda item A-6 on tonight’s consent agenda contains an agreement with the Fresno State Kremen School of Education. I am currently employed by California State University, Fresno.

I did not participate in the making of the agreement related to this agenda item; but, because of my employment with Fresno State I have a remote financial interest in this agreement.

Therefore, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

On a motion by Board Member Jonasson Rosas, seconded by Board Member Thomas, the Board approved agenda item A-6 by a vote of 5-0-1-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, and Clerk Wittrup. ABSTAINED: Member Levine ABSENT: Board President Islas.

A-7, APPROVE Rejection of Bid 24-19, Education Center Human Resources Interior and Electrical Upgrades

APPROVED as recommended, staff recommend rejecting all bids for Bid 24-19, Education Center Human Resources Interior and Electrical Upgrades.

A-8, RATIFY Grant Application to the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs 2023 Thriving Schools Grant Cycle

RATIFIED as recommended, the 2023 Grant Application to the Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit Programs to support the Healthy Schools, Healthy Community, Healthy Student initiative.

A-9, RATIFY Change Orders

RATIFIED as recommended, information on Change Orders for the projects as follows:

Bid 22-18, Ewing and Turner Elementary Schools Unit Ventilation, EMS, and Central Plant Equipment Replacement

Change Order 1 presented for ratification \$112,002

Bid 23-23, Ericson Elementary School New Multi-Purpose Building and Interim Housing

Change Order 1 (Interim Housing) presented for ratification \$48,723

Bid 23-60, Bullard High School Gas and Sewer Line Replacement

Change Order 1 presented for ratification \$21,700

A-10, RATIFY the Filing of a Notice of Completion
ITEM PULLED FROM AGENDA BY STAFF. No action taken.

A-11, RATIFY Purchase Orders from July 01, 2023, through July 31, 2023 – Primary Report

RATIFIED as recommended, information on purchase orders issued from July 01, 2023, through July 31, 2023. Two agenda items are presented to ratify purchase orders. The first item includes the Primary Report with all purchase orders issued during the reported dates with the exception of those that may present a potential conflict of interest for an individual Board member. All remaining purchase orders are in the Supplemental Report and presented as a second agenda item.

A-12, RATIFY Purchase Orders from July 01, 2023, through July 31, 2023 – Supplemental Report

RATIFIED as recommended. information on purchase orders issued from July 01, 2023, through July 31, 2023 – Supplemental Report.

For the record, Board Member Levine read a statement as follows:

“Agenda item A-12 on tonight’s Consent Agenda contains purchase orders for the California Teaching Fellows Foundation, the CSU Fresno Foundation, and the Fresno State Alumni Association. I am currently employed by California State University, Fresno.

Additionally, item A-12 also contains purchase orders with the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, and I have been employed by Fresno County EOC, which is a nonprofit corporation.

I did not participate in the making of the purchase orders related to this agenda item; however, because of my employment with both Fresno State and Fresno EOC I have a remote financial interest in those purchase orders.

Therefore, in the interest of full transparency, I am abstaining from this vote pursuant to Board Bylaw 9270.”

On a motion by Board Member Thomas, seconded by Board Member Davis the Board approved agenda item A-12 by a vote of 5-0-1-1, as follows: AYES: Board Members: Cazares, Davis, Jonasson Rosas, Thomas, and Clerk Wittrup. ABSTAINED: Member Levine. ABSENT: Board President Islas.

B. CONFERENCE/DISCUSSION AGENDA

B-13, PRESENT and DISCUSS Equity Based Facility Planning

A presentation by RSS Consulting, LLC for the equity-based facility assessment regarding New School Bond 2024. RSSC will present a recommended approach to engaging in equity-based facilities planning. The session was designed to offer the approach while strengthening the Board's understanding of equity minded leadership in facilities planning. The approach includes clarifying what is meant by equity, analyzing current conditions through a racial lens, obtaining qualitative data from students, staff, community, and Board members, and engaging in authentic community engagement so the community will be able to recognize their hopes and aspirations in the decisions that are made by the Fresno Unified School District Board of Education.

Member Jonasson Rosas: Asked where the district is regarding engagement with the firm to do this kind of work. Is this proposed process for a facilities master plan for the LCAP. Commented that all Board members may feel as if they got the short end of the stick regarding facilities improvements. Commented that this work will be important and would like the entire project list to be reviewed. Commented it does not matter to the community what bond measure paid for the work, just that the work is done.

Member Thomas: Expressed excitement for this work towards the bond. Commented the district has a good record and does not want it broken. Requested clarity as to what the 5 Cs referenced in the presentation will look like regarding safe routes to schools. Requested clarity as to what partnerships will look like in the community? Commented on the importance of maintenance. Commented that this will take a complete change of mind-set. Requested clarity as to where young people fit in the community engagement component?

Member Levine: Thrilled about this work. Asked RCSS presenters to share any lessons learned after having done similar work in Sacramento, and if those lessons will influence the work with Fresno Unified. Expressed hope this work is not just to pass a bond but something that will be continued moving forward and asked how the work will be sustained.

Member Davis: Shared staff will benefit from this dialogue. Expressed appreciation for RCSS's focus to the communities' voice and respect of the community. Commented that boundaries do not decide the design.

Student Member Pitcher: Thanked the presenters for their presentation. Commented not only as a student advisory board member but also as a student from a school in an area of low income and shared he is looking forward to seeing how funds will be directed to Edison High School.

OPPORTUNITY FOR UNSCHEDULED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

For the record, the Board received one request to address the Board during Unscheduled Oral Communications. The individual's name with a summary of topic are as follows:

1. Wayland Jackson: Asked the Board to consider eliminating the grading system. Provided Board members with a copy of the book, *Frog Legs, Short Stories About Life*. A complete copy of comments is noted as Addendum B of the meeting minutes.

C. RECEIVE INFORMATION & REPORTS

For the record, there were no items for the Board to receive.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Board Clerk Wittrup ADJOURNED the meeting at 7:30 p.m.